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 playback]; and

- e) subscriber identification means for identifying the system user to the system, and for authorizing the system user's access to the user-inter-action means.

wherein the [system] subscriber identification means authorizes a subscriber to gain access to the system for previewing, and further wherein the system enables the subscriber-identified system user to preview musical selections from a packaged music product without the user having to open the music product packaging and further wherein the user is able to select among, and to [maintain] control [of] the playback of musical selections from the music product identified for previewing [throughout the duration of the selection playback].

22. (Amended.) A method for user previewing at a retail sales location of a packaged music product available for sale without the user having to open the music product packaging which comprises the steps of:

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- a) providing a system at the retail sale location which has (i) preloaded data storage and playback means which preloaded data includes musical selections from the music product available for sale; (ii) means for enabling the user to identify to the system the music product to be previewed; and (iii) means for user interaction with the system for enabling the user to choose among musical selections from the music product identified to the system for previewing [and for enabling the user] to [maintain] control [of] the musical selection playback [throughout the duration of the musical selection playback]; and
 - (iv) subscriber identification means for identifying the system user to the system and for authorizing the system user's access to the user-interaction means.
 - b) identifying the subscriber-identified system user to the system using the subscriber identification means;
 - c) authorizing user access to the system for previewing using the subscriber identification means;
 - [b)] d) identifying to the system the music product to be previewed, using the product identification means;
 - [c)] e) choosing a musical selection for user previewing using the user interaction means; and

[d)] the interacting with the system to choose a second musical selection for user previewing using the user interaction means,

wherein the method enables the subscriber-identified system user to preview musical selections from a packaged music product at a retail sales location without the user having to open the music product packaging, [and] further wherein the user is able to choose among musical selections from the music product identified for previewing[, and further wherein the user is able to maintain control of the musical selection playback throughout the duration of the musical selection playback].

27. (Amended.) A system for user-interactive previewing at a retail sales location of a packaged music product available for sale without the user having to open the music product packaging which comprises:

a) data storage, retrieval and playback means containing preloaded data which includes musical selections from the music product available for sale, the means further providing for storage of data generated and collected during user operation of the system;

b) means for enabling the user to identify to the system the music product to be previewed;

c) means for user-interaction with the system enabling the user to choose among musical selections from the music products identified to the system for previewing, and enabling the user to [maintain] control [of] the musical selection playback [throughout the duration of the musical selection playback]; [and,]

d) subscriber identification means for identifying the system user to the system and for authorizing the system user's access to the user-interaction means; and,

[d)] e) means for collecting data concerning a frequency of music product identification by subscriber-identified system users and data concerning frequency of music product musical selections chosen by subscriber-identified system users,

wherein the [system] subscriber identification means authorizes a subscriber to gain access to the system for previewing, and further wherein the system enables the subscriber-identified system user to preview musical selections from a packaged music product without the user having to open the music product packaging, further wherein the user is able to choose among and to [maintain] control [of] the playback of musical selections from the music product identified for previewing [throughout the duration of the musical selection playback], and further wherein the system generates and collects data concerning subscriber identification events and musical selection choice events during subscriber-identified system user operation of the system.

33. (Amended.) A system for user-interactive previewing at a retail sales location of a packaged music product available for sale without the user having to open the music product packaging which comprises:

- a) means for storing information which includes musical selections from the music product available for sale;
- b) means for playing back stored information;
- c) means for enabling the user to identify to the system the music product to be previewed by supplying a music product code to the system;
- d) subscriber identification means for identifying the system user to the system and for authorizing the system user's access to the user-interaction means; and,
 [d)] e) means for user-interaction with the system enabling the subscriber-identified system user to choose among musical selections from the music product identified to the system for previewing, and enabling the user to [maintain] control [of] the musical selection playback [throughout the duration of the musical selection playback];

wherein the [system] subscriber identification means authorizes a subscriber to gain access to the system for previewing, and further wherein the system enables the subscriber-identified system user to preview musical selections from a packaged music product without the user having to open the music product packaging and further wherein the user is able to choose among and to [maintain] control [of] the playback of musical selections from the music product identified for previewing [throughout the duration of the musical selection playback].

Please cancel claims 38-39, 66-76, 78-81, 85-86 and 90-91 without prejudice to their presentation in a subsequent application.

Please add the following new claims:

118. A system for user-interactive previewing at a retail sales location of a packaged music product available for sale which comprises:

- a) means for storing information which includes musical selections from the music product available for sale;
- b) means for playing back stored information;
- c) bar code means for enabling the user to identify to the system the music product to be previewed; and,

d) means for user-interaction with the system enabling the user to choose among musical selections from the music product identified to the system for previewing, and enabling the user to control the musical selection playback.

wherein the system enables the user to preview musical selections from a packaged music product without the user having to open the music product packaging and further wherein the user is able to select among, and to control the playback of musical selections from the music product identified to the system for previewing by said bar code means.

119. A system according to claim 118 wherein the information storage means utilizes information storage medium selected from the group consisting of CD-ROM, audio CD and combinations thereof.

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120. A system according to claim 118 wherein the user-interaction means includes a user-system interface selected from the group consisting of a keyboard, a touch screen and combinations thereof.

121. A system according to claim 118 further comprising means for gathering and storing data concerning frequency of music product identification by users and data concerning frequency of music product musical selections chosen by users.

122. A system according to claim 118 further comprising means for gathering and storing data concerning frequency of music product identification by users, the data being compiled by categories of music products.

123. A system according to claim 118 further comprising means for gathering and storing data concerning music product identification events,

124. A system according to claim 118 further comprising means for gathering and storing data concerning user-interactions with the system for musical selection-choice events.

125. A method for user previewing at a retail sales location of a packaged music product available for sale without the user having to open the music product packaging which comprises the steps of:

- a) providing a system at the retail sale location which has (i) preloaded data storage and playback means which preloaded data includes musical selections from the music product available for sale; (ii) bar code means for enabling the user to identify to the system the music product to be previewed; and (iii) means for user interaction with the system for enabling the user to choose among musical selections from the music product identified to the system for previewing;
- b) identifying to the system the music product to be previewed, using the bar code product identification means;
- c) choosing a musical selection for user previewing using the user interaction means; and
- d) interacting with the system to choose a second musical selection for user previewing using the user interaction means,

wherein the method enables the user to preview musical selections from a packaged music product at a retail sales location without the user having to open the music product packaging, further wherein the user is able to choose among musical selections from the music product identified for previewing by the bar code means.

126. A system for user-interactive previewing at a retail sales location of a packaged music product available for sale which comprises:

- a) means for storing information which includes musical selections from the music product available for sale;
- b) means for playing back stored information[.];
- c) bar code means for enabling the user to identify to the system the music product to be previewed by supplying a music product code from the package of the music product available for sale; and,
- d) means for user-interaction with the system enabling the user to choose among musical selections from the music product identified to the system for previewing, and enabling the user to control the musical selection playback,

wherein the system enables the user to preview musical selections from a packaged music product without the user having to open the music product packaging and further wherein the user is able to select among, and to control the playback of musical selections from the music product identified to the system for previewing by said bar code means.

127. A system according to claim 126 wherein the information storage means utilizes information storage medium selected from the group consisting of CD-ROM, audio CD and combinations thereof.

128. A system according to claim 126 wherein the user-interaction means includes a user-system interface selected from the group consisting of a keyboard, a touch screen and combinations thereof.

129. A system according to claim 126 further comprising means for gathering and storing data concerning frequency of music product identification by users and data concerning frequency of music product musical selections chosen by users.

130. A system according to claim 126 further comprising means for gathering and storing data concerning frequency of music product identification by users, the data being compiled by categories of music products.

131. A system according to claim 126 further comprising means for gathering and storing data concerning music product identification events,

132. A system according to claim 126 further comprising means for gathering and storing data concerning user-interactions with the system for musical selection-choice events.

133. A method for user previewing at a retail sales location of a packaged music product available for sale without the user having to open the music product packaging which comprises the steps of:

- a) providing a system at the retail sale location which has (i) preloaded data storage and playback means which preloaded data includes musical selections from the music product available for sale; (ii) bar code means for enabling the user to identify to the system the music product to be previewed by supplying a music product code from the package of the music product available for sale; and (iii) means for user interaction with the system for enabling the user to choose among musical selections from the music product identified to the system for previewing;
- b) identifying to the system the music product to be previewed, using the bar code product identification means;

- c) choosing a musical selection for user previewing using the user interaction means; and
- d) interacting with the system to choose a second musical selection for user previewing using the user interaction means,

65 wherein the method enables the user to preview musical selections from a packaged music product at a retail sales location without the user having to open the music product packaging, further wherein the user is able to choose among musical selections from the music product identified for previewing by the bar code means.
